

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

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TAGS: EAGR PL

SUBJECT: POLISH CROP ESTIMATES

REF: (A) FASTO 146, (B) WARSAW 5712

1. REF A QUESTIONED THE ESTIMATES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ON THIS YEAR'S HARVEST OF GRAIN AND RAPE IN POLAND. THE EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PRODUCTION IS LIKELY TO BE LOW AS FORECAST BY THE GOP, AND POSSIBLY SLIGHTLY LOWER.

2. EARLY STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT SOURCES THAT 1976 GRAIN YIELDS MIGHT BE AS HIGH AS 26 QUINTALS PER HECTARE WERE BASED ON ANALYSIS CONDUCTED IN THE THIRD WEEK OF JUNE, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THOSE ESTIMATES WERE THEREFORE MADE BEFORE THE FULL IMPACT OF THE DRY SPELL OF LATE JUNE COULD BE ASSESSED.

3. FIGURES PUBLISHED IN THE AGRI-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN INDICATE THAT PRECIPITATION IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR WAS LESS THAN 60 PERCENT OF NORMAL (COMPARED WITH THE 1931-1960 AVERAGE) IN EACH OF POLAND'S GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, AND THAT IN THE MAJORITY OF LOCALES PRECIPITATION WAS LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF

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NORMAL. THE BULLETIN SHOWS THAT RAINFALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

WAS 70 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN SZCZECIN, 61 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN GDANSK, AND 48 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN WARSAW AND LUBLIN. ABOVE-AVERAGE RAINFALL (MAILY FROM LOCALIZED STORMS WHICH OFTEN DID NOT COVER THE WHOLE PROVINCE) FOR JULY WAS RECORDED IN SERVERAL AREAS, EXCEEDING 130 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN KATOWICE AND BIALYSTOK AND 150 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN POZNAN. GIVEN THE LOW MOISTURE-RETENTION RATE OF THE SANDY SOILS THROUGHOUT MOST OF POLAND, THE ABSENCE OF RAIN IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY PROBABLY HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SPRING GRAINS WHICH WAS NOT COMPENSATED FOR BY RAINS LATER IN JULY. VISUAL INSPECTION OF CROPS BY THE AGRICULTURAL SECTION SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF UNCUT SPRING GRAINS IN WESTERN POLAND TO BE BLACKENED. A COPY OF THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION TRIPS IS BEING POUCHED TO FAS

4. THE RELATIVELY LATE SPRING DELAYED THE HARVEST IN MOST REGIONS BY TWO TO THREE WEEKS BEYOND NORMAL. THE NEARLY DAILY RAIN IN AUGUST HAS ALSO HAMPERED CUTTING AND COLLECTION OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN POLAND, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT LOSSES DUE TO SPOILAGE MAY RESULT IN SOMEWHAT LOWER YIELDS THAN FORESEEN BY THE CROP SURVEY COMPLETED AT THE END OF JULY.

5. THE SMALLER ACREAGE UNDER GRAINS THIS YEAR (DOWN 127,000 HECTARES FROM 1975) HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO LOWER PRODUCTION. THE MINISTRY HAD ESTIMATED LAST MAY THAT TOTAL GRAIN PLANTINGS WOULD EXCEED 8 MILLION HECTARES, COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 7.68 MILLION INDICATED BY THE LAST CENSUS.

6. THE FOLLOWING TABLE WERE CONSTRUCTED BY THE AGATTACHE OFFICE FROM HECTARAGE DATE JUST SUPPLIED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH WAS NOT INCLUDED IN ITS CURRENT SITUATION BULLETIN NUMBER 6.

CROP ESTIMATE BASED ON MINAG FIGURES

1975

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	AREA		
	HARVESTED YIELD		PRODUCTION
	000 HA	G/HA	000 M/T
WHEAT	1842	28.3	5211
RYE	2792	22.5	6271
BARLEY	1335	27.4	3652
OATS	1291	22.7	2932
TOTAL 4 GRAINS	7260	24.9	18066

MIXED	543	24.9	1353
TOTAL 4 GRAINS			
AND MIXED	7803	24.9	19419
RAPE	322	22.9	707

1976 ESTIMATE

AREA			
	HARVESTED YIELD		PRODUCTION
	000 HA	G/HA	MLN M/T
WHEAT	1833.3	27.2(1)	5.0(1)
RYE	2934.7	22.4	6.6
BARLEY	1210.2	27.4(1,2)	3.3(1)
OATS	1115.1	22.4	2.5
TOTAL 4 GRAINS	7093.3	24.4	17.4
MIXED	582.3	24.5(3)	1.4
TOTAL 4 GRAINS			
AND MIXED	7675.6	24.5	18.8
RAPE	367.6	19.0	0.7

(1) WEIGHT-AVERAGE ESTIMATES CALCULATED BY THE EMBASSY

(2) FIGURE CORRECTED FROM THAT REPORTED IN WARSAW 5712

(3) EMBASSY ESTAMATE

7. THE ABOVE CALCULATION SHOWS A TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION OF 18.8 MILLION M/T RATHER THAN THE 19.1 MILLION M/T CONTAINED IN BULLETIN NUMBER 6. THIS DISCREPANCY MAY BE DUE TO STATISTICAL PECULIARITIES (SUCH AS AN OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE FOR YIELDS OF MIXED GRAINS) OR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S "CREATIVE ROUNDING" TO MAKE THE TOTAL COME OUT OVER 19 MILLION M/T.

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